



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

November 27, 2022

VOL. 87

NO. 48

Rev. Stephen J. Niermann, Pastor
Miss Tracy Germann, Principal

Church: 419-598-8961 Home: 419-598-8181
School: 419-598-8702 Cell: 419-270-8863
Church Website: www.sjl.org

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Sermon & Text: "No Christmas?" *Matthew 21:1-11*

Children's Sermon: "Gods Megaphone"

Order of Service: See printed Service Folder

Hymns: 345 ~ 331 ~ 348 ~ 509

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Advent is a season of repentance and preparation for the Coming of Christ. We warmly welcome all who have come to worship our God with us today! Each day we live is a priceless gift from God, loaded with possibilities to learn something new, to gain fresh insights into his great truths. If you are a visitor, please fill out the Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you and drop it in the baskets at the doors as you leave today.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

✠ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✠

✠ Neil Badenhop, Doug Dietrich, Joe Badenhop, Nick Sonnenberg, *Ushers* ✠

✠ Lou Ann Rosebrock, Diane Von Deylen, *Altar Guild* ✠

POINSETTIA SALE –The poinsettia sale deadline is today. Order forms are still available at the narthex table. **The cost has gone up to \$9.00 per plant.** Our previous supplier has closed their business, so we have had to "scramble" to find a replacement...similar to our hunt for a new Easter flower supplier. You may put your form and check payable to *St. John Lutheran School* in the box on the narthex table. Be sure to fill in the line, "*In Loving Memory of*" or "*In Honor of*". This information will be published in the church bulletin as an insert the Sunday the poinsettias are placed in the sanctuary.



"THE LAMP" Bible class for the high schoolers is cancelled today. See you next Sunday!

In God's House This Week

Online church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Worship Service Adult Bible Study; Sunday School
Mon.	5:30 PM 5:30 PM 6:00 PM	<i>Bread From Heaven</i> Food Pantry distribution School Board Meeting Decorate sanctuary for Christmas
Tue.	8:35 AM 5:00 PM	School Chapel B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Boys; 6:00 PM Gr. 4-6 Girls vs. St. Mary's – Edgerton (H)
Wed.	5:45 PM 7:00 PM	PTL Fall Penny Drive wraps up today Junior Confirmation Class (<i>until 6:45 PM</i>) Advent Service 1 ; Offering: <i>Good Shepherd Church for the Deaf-Toledo</i> Ushers: <i>Neil Badenhop, Doug Dietrich, Joe Badenhop, Nick Sonnenberg</i> Altar Guild: <i>Lou Ann Rosebrock, Diane Von Deylen</i>
Thurs.	6:30 AM 4:30 PM	Men's Bible Breakfast B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 5:30 PM Gr. 4-6 Boys @ St. Paul - Napoleon
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM 10:20AM 4:00 PM	Communion Service Adult Bible Class; "The Lamp" Children's Christmas Program practice (<i>Gr. PS – 8 until 11:15 AM</i>) Virtual Christmas Caroling in the sanctuary
Mon.-Sat	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM

MATTERS FOR PRAYER – Please keep these people in your prayers:

- ❖ *Melba Elling, Lorna Von Deylen, Norma Damman*, at Genacross – Napoleon
- ❖ *Lawrence Behrmann*, at Northcrest Nursing & Rehab
- ❖ Military: *Justin Atkinson, Jason Rohrs, Emily Niermann, Jared Dishop, Jordan Lange*
- ❖ *Sue Hurst and Dave Crandall*, health concerns related to cancer

CHRISTMAS DECORATING – Tomorrow is the day for decorating the sanctuary for Christmas. We plan to gather around 6:00 PM. Everyone is welcome to come and join the fun!

ADVENT DEVOTION BOOKLETS are available today on the narthex table. They are titled *A Son is Given* and are provided to us through Lutheran Hour Ministries. Pick up a copy today! More will be printed as needed.

Bible Study



MEN'S BIBLE BREAKFAST THIS THURSDAY – *The best part of waking up is a delicious breakfast, great fellowship, and the Word of God!* Join us for Men's Bible Breakfast this Thursday at 6:30 AM for all of the above! What a great way to start your day...good food, good friends, and the Word of God! We hope you can join us!

WEDNESDAY CONFIRMATION CLASS – REVSIED TIME

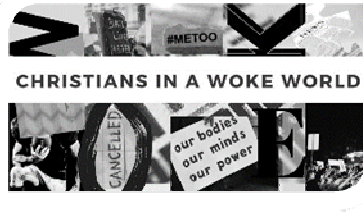
Please note that during Advent and through the month of December, the Wednesday evening confirmation class will meet from 5:45 to 6:45 PM, dismissing in time for worship at 7:00 PM.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL & BIBLE STUDY

We have been discussing a phenomenon in our Western civilization called “Cultural Marxism.” Like its classic version, Cultural Marxism divides people into groups and pits them against each other as “oppressors” and “oppressed.” The language is a little different, however. Instead of “oppressor” and “oppressed” we hear of “privilege,” and “victimhood.” Instead of a seeking “revolution” we hear a lot about “equity” and “social justice” as the noble goal of this movement. Language, and its manipulation, is very important to this agenda, and Christians need to understand this vocabulary and how to respond to it with love and the truth of God’s Word. Join us for our Sunday study...

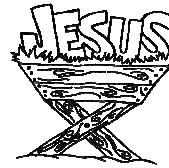
Christians in a Woke World - A Call to Courage, Confession and LOVE

We are analyzing this new Marxism from a Biblical perspective, and seeking courage to confess the truth to this ‘Woke’ world that our true identity is in Christ. We are not defined by any humanly devised identity group, but by the cross at which ALL of us were redeemed to be the children of God.



ADVENT FELLOWSHIP DINNER: *WOMEN AND MEN* – mark your calendars for the **Advent Fellowship Dinner being hosted by the Women of Freedom and Stewardship Board on Sun., Dec. 11th from 5 – 7 PM.** This is a special evening designed to help us prepare our hearts for the celebration of Christ’s birth. We will enjoy a potluck dinner and short Advent program including familiar Christmas carols. NOTE: The meat will be furnished. Please bring a side dish to share.

CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS SERVICE SCRIPTS will be going home this week from both the Sunday School and school. **The Children’s Christmas Service is on Sunday evening, December 18th at 7:00 PM.** Every child is being assigned a part, but if for some reason your child will not be participating, please be sure to call the church office and let us know ASAP.



VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS CAROLING – Join us on Sunday, December 4th in the sanctuary for Virtual Christmas Caroling. We’ll sing some of the carols of Christmas, and livestream the sounds of Christmas joy to anyone who may be tuned in over the internet. We will gather at 4:00 PM and sing a few Christmas carols, interspersed perhaps with readings and such, about a half an hour total. Afterwards there will be pizza for all. ***Join us and spread the cheer!***

ADVENT MIDWEEK SERVICES will begin this Wednesday, November 30th. Services will be held each Wednesday during Advent at 7:00 p.m. The worship series is based on Paul’s first letter to the Thessalonians, focusing us on the hope we have as we await the second coming of the Christ child. The schedule for Advent messages is:

- Nov. 30 “Our Two-Minute Drill” *1 Thess 1:1-10*
- Dec 7 “Praying Like Paul,” *1 Thess 3:10-13*
- Dec. 14 “You’ve Got a Ticket to Ride!” *1 Thess 4:13-18*
- Dec. 21 “Faithful Watching and Waiting,” *1 Thess 5:1-11*



NOMINATION PROCESS – Letters have been mailed as the Stewardship Board begins the process of nominating individuals for the various offices of our congregation. Please keep this process in prayer, as it is often difficult to identify willing candidates. And please, if you are asked about accepting a nomination, give it prayerful thought, and consider how God may want to use you in service to His people, for the blessing of us all!

SCRIP: Plan to get a jump start on your Christmas shopping this year. The SCRIP Order Forms are available on the narthex table and in the “School Info” rack outside the school office is you should need more. Thank you and happy shopping!

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 11/20/22	\$9,387.00	\$700.00	\$310.00

ATTENDANCE: 132

2023 OFFERING BOXES: Offering envelope boxes will be available in early December. The financial commitments you make as well as how you contribute are between you and God. The church provides offering envelopes to our members in order to promote faithful and joyful giving as well as to serve as a means to record member contributions throughout the year for charitable tax purposes. Due to the costs of these envelope boxes, members who elect to not use their envelopes over the course of two years (*for whatever reason*) will no longer be issued a box of envelopes. If at any time such a member would like to resume using envelopes, please contact Jerry Langenhop, Finance Trustee, and a box will be issued to you.

ANNUAL DECEMBER VOTERS' MEETING – The annual December Voters' Assembly will be held in the fellowship hall on **Sunday, December 18th** after the morning service. Agenda items (to date) include: 1) adopting a 2023 budget; 2) nomination and election of 2023 officers

USHER AND ALTAR GUILD SIGN-UP – If you are interested in serving God's people here at St. John in a way that is much needed and appreciated, would you consider joining an usher or altar guild team? The demand on your time in either area is minimal, but the blessing of rendering service to the LORD is tremendous. We are preparing the 2023 usher and altar guild schedules so this is the time to sign-up at the table in the narthex. The sign-up deadline is Sunday, Dec. 11th. *You do not need to sign up again if you are currently serving as an usher or are on an altar guild team.*

BULLETIN STUFFER VOLUNTEERS: Want to get involved? Why not try volunteering to help with stuffing the bulletins for worship services. It's not too difficult and can be done either at church or in the comfort of your own home. The bulletins are pre-folded. If anyone is willing to donate a little time toward stuffing bulletins, we are looking for about 11-12 couples/families to sign up for this task in 2023. If you feel you would like to give this a try, please sign up on the sheet at the narthex table. You can even pick the month that works best for you. We can accommodate your busy schedules. ***NOTE:*** *If you have stuffed bulletins in the past year, thank you for your service. We ask that you please sign up again and choose your month. You can also call Lori Langenhop at 419-966-3472 or email her at lahop@bright.net.*

CHRISTMAS CARDS & CUTLERY: Check out the table in the hallway by the cry room! The Women of Freedom have put out boxes of Christmas Cards for sale. If you are interested in purchasing any cutlery items such as: Paring Knives, Stubby Butcher Knives, Pie Servers, Vegetable Peelers, Slicer Knives, Granny Forks, Carving Forks, Pizza Cutters, Tomato Slicer, and Small Spatula, please contact *Nancy Glaser, Deb Wachtman, Pat Maassel, or Marian Dickmann* to purchase these.

PTL FALL PENNY DRIVE – The Fall Penny Drive wraps up on Wed., Nov. 30th. Gather up your pennies and bring them to the school office. You can specify which classroom you would like them to be given to or they can be divided between all the classrooms. The winning classroom will be treated to a pizza party. Jump on board and support the PTL! Thank you!

SPORTS SCHEDULE: To view the most recent sports schedule, please go to AD Joe Badenhop's "Calendar" in Fast Direct, as this is where he will post the sports schedules and any changes. Simply go to either FastDirect directly (*thru the school*) or you can enter the church's website (*www.sjl.org*), click on "School" at the top of page, click on "FastDirect School Info. System" on the left side of page, then click on "BulletinBoard/Calendar" on the left side of page, and scroll down to Joe Badenhop, Athletic Director and click on **his** "Calendar".

IT'S CHRISTMAS CHEER TIME AGAIN! Henry County Christmas Cheer is beginning its annual campaign for monetary donations **ONLY** for the purchase of food for low income and needy persons in Henry County. The campaign runs from now through December 3rd. If you would like to make a donation, please drop it in the container marked "Christmas Cheer" on the narthex table. **Make checks payable to Henry County Christmas Cheer.** If you or someone you know living in Henry County needing help during the holidays, please pick up an application for them on the narthex table. The Christmas Cheer Board of Trustees thanks you for your support!

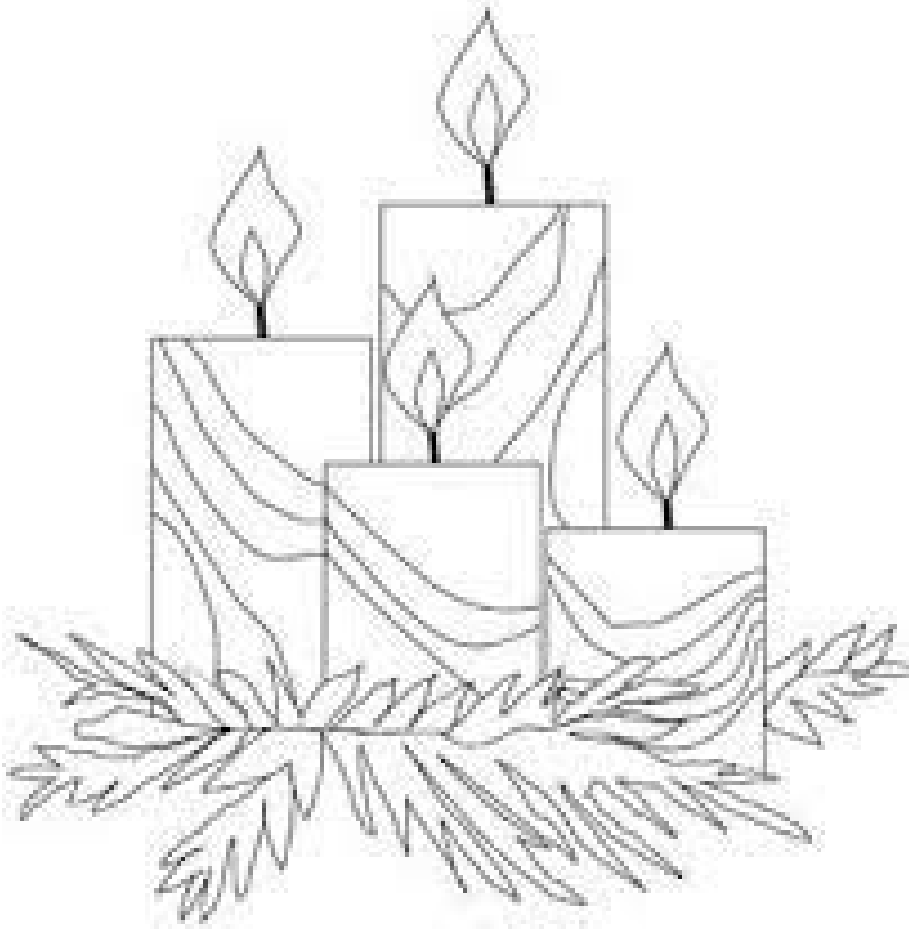
HEARING ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE: If hearing in worship has been a problem for you, pick up one of the receiver units for our hearing assistance system. An usher will assist you and you'll hear much more clearly. (*Also, please let us know how the system is working for you.*)

For those who use the hearing assistance system regularly and for the sake of hygiene, we ask that you claim one of the ear buds as your own and keep it with you in your purse, pocket, etc. Bring it with you when you come to church, and simply plug it into one of the receivers. At the end of the service, unplug the ear bud to take with you until the next time.

AREA EVENTS

- ◆ **THE LUTHERAN CHORALAIRES ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT** – Sat., Dec. 3, 2022 at 4:00 PM at St. John Lutheran Church, Rochester, MI and Sat., Dec. 10, 2022 at 4:00 PM at Historic Trinity Lutheran Church, Detroit, MI. See flyer for pricing!
- ◆ **CHRISTMAS VILLAGE CRAFT SHOW** will be held at the Ridgeville Legion Hall, Sun., Dec. 4th from 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM. Lunch will be served. Come and browse the shops!
- ◆ **THE TOLEDO SYMPHONY** will perform a Christmas Concert at **St. Paul Lutheran Church – Napoleon Township, on Wed., Dec. 14th beginning at 7:30 PM.** Tickets on sale thru their church office at 419-758-3522. See flyer!

COLORING PAGE



ADVENT